

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00463 091430Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /079 W  
-----033212 091431Z /43

O R 091357Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6914  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0463

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, WA  
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: MEETING ON TOWNSHIP DISTURBANCES

REF: CAPE TOWN 0452,

1. WINDHOEK SOURCES INFORM US THAT KATATURA TOWNSHIP  
REMAINED GENERALLY QUIET THE AFTERNOON AND NIGHT OF MARCH 8,  
AND MIGRANT LABORERS REPORTED TO WORK AS USUAL TODAY, MARCH 9.  
OTHER AREAS OF THE COUNTRY WERE REPORTED QUITE.

2. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, ON MARCH 8, AT THE INSTIGATION  
OF THE DEMOCRATIC TURNHALLE ALLIANCE (DTA), A MEETING WAS  
HELD AMONG LEADERS OF DTA, SWAPO, THE NAMIBIA NATIONAL  
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FRONT (NNF) AND REPRESENTATIVES OF CHURCH GROUPS AND THE  
POLICE, TO DISCUSS THE DISTURBANCES. THE LATTER  
THREE GROUPS WERE INCLUDED AT THE INSISTENCE OF  
SWAPO, WHICH REFUSED TO MEET PRIVATELY WITH DTA.  
IT WAS DECIDED THAT ALL GROUPS SHOULD URGE RESTRAINT  
ON THEIR SUPPORTERS AND TRY TO BRING AN END TO THE  
TENSION. A "WATCHDOG COMMITTEE" WAS APPOINTED CONSISTING

OF LUCAS DE VRIES (EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH),  
BILLY MARAIS (DTA), MOKGANEDI TLHABANELLO (SWAPO),  
AND GERSON VEII (NNF), TO MONITOR THE SITUATION AND MEET  
WHEN NECESSARY TO FORESTALL FURTHER VIOLENCE. FOLLOWING THE MEET-  
ING, DTA AND SWAPO LEADERS REPORTED TO THEIR FOLLOWERS IN  
KATATURA AND URGED RESTRAINT ON THEM.

3. ALTHOUGH CALM IS RETURNING TO KATATURA, POLITICAL LEADERS  
INDICATE THAT THE TROUBLE MAY NOT BE OVER YET. GERSON  
VEII, WHEN CONTACTED, COMPLAINED THAT ALTHOUGH YESTERDAY'S  
MEETING HAD AGREED THAT ALL PARTIES SHOULD REFRAIN FROM  
PROVOCATIVE SPEECHES, THIS MORNING'S SABC BROADCAST  
INCLUDED A SCATHING ATTACK ON SWAPO. SWAPO'S SECRETARY  
FOR LABOR, JASON ANGULA, TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT DESPITE  
SWAPO'S UNDERSTANDING THAT NO WORKERS WOULD LOSE THEIR  
JOBS AS A RESULT OF ABSENTEEISM DURING THE UNREST (REFTEL),  
A LOCAL CONSTRUCTION FIRM HAD DISMISSED 15 WORKERS, AN  
ACTION WHICH COULD LEAD TO ANOTHER STRIKE. HE DDED  
THAT HEREROS BROUGHT IN FROM OUTSIDE KATATURA HAD NOT  
YET LEFT THE TOWNSHIP AND THAT THEY WOULD BE A CONTINUING  
SOURCE OF FRICTION AS LONG AS THEY REMAINED.

4. COMMENT: SWAPO'S AGREEMENT TO MEET AT THE SAME  
TABLE AS DTA, ALBEIT IN EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES,  
IS NOTABLE IN ITS OWN RIGHT. IT WILL, MOREOVER,  
MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE SAG AND ITS ALLIES  
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TO BLAME SWAPO FOR THE DISTURBANCE.  
BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MIGRATORY WORKERS, MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978CAPET00463  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780106-0417  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 7e06d9ca-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 CAPE TOWN 452  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3391562  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NAMIBIA: MEETING ON TOWNSHIP DISTURBANCES  
**TAGS:** PINS, PORS, WA, SWAPO, DTA, NNF  
**To:** STATE USUN NEW YORK  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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